

Tridentine Community News

September 30, 2007

An Updated Survey of Hand Missals

This week we are running an updated version of the column that has generated the most requests for reprints. With the advent of weekday Extraordinary Form Masses, for which no Latin/English Propers handouts are being prepared, interest is growing in hand missals. But how do they compare?

20th Century Changes to the Missal

The Ordinary of the Tridentine Missal has undergone several minor changes throughout its history. In the latter half of the 20th century, those changes included suppression of the server's Confiteor before Holy Communion, and the addition of the name of St. Joseph to the Canon. These are small changes that present no problem to the owner of any early-20th century hand missal.

As regards the Propers, 1956 brought major changes to the liturgies of Holy Week. Relevant to our Sunday Mass, the Palm Sunday liturgy has been modified: The Blessing and Procession of Palms has been somewhat shortened, and the portion of St. Matthew's Gospel read at Mass has slightly changed. If you own a missal that was published before 1956, you will find a difference between what is in your book and what we do here. Our weekly Latin/English Propers handout will contain the ceremonies as prescribed in the 1962 edition of the Tridentine Missal, the official version mandated for present use by the Vatican.

In addition, nomenclature for the Tridentine Calendar has been changed. Whereas older missals refer to certain feasts with terms such as "Double" or "Semi-double", the 1962 edition simply assigns each feast day a rank between one and four.

The frequency of "Commemorations" has been reduced. This term refers to the recitation of a second Collect, Secret, and Postcommunion prayer, in recognition of another feast on the same day. For example, in the U.S. only, September 26 is the feast of Ss. Jean Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, & Companions. On that day, the celebrant must also recite a Commemoration of the international feast of the same day, Ss. Cyprian & Justina. This situation used to occur more often, and was simplified, possibly because it could be rather confusing to determine what the appropriate Commemoration was supposed to be on a certain day.

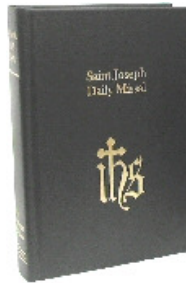
Missals Currently In Print

Countless Latin/English hand missals have been published over the years. Just take a look on EBay; the selection is overwhelming. Below we will compare the select few that are currently in print:

The St. Andrew Missal, republished by St. Bonaventure Publications (www.libers.com, (406) 452-5452), \$55.00) is a 1952 edition. It has lengthy commentaries on each week's Mass, and a sizable collection of devotional prayers. The full Latin and English text of every Mass, Sunday and weekday, are provided.

The New Roman Missal, a.k.a. the Fr. Lasance Missal, is a 1945 edition (www.allcatholicbooks.com, \$52.95). Similar to the St. Andrew Missal, it is a vast volume, with many devotional prayers and full Latin and English propers. However, both of these missals suffer from many errors in their typesetting (accuracy was more difficult in those pre-computer days), and they do not contain the 1956 Holy Week changes. Out of print until November, 2007.

The ubiquitous Marian Missal by Fr. Sylvester Juergens comes in various editions. Some have large print, others have full Latin and English, others have Sundays only and only in English. Currently, you can purchase a republished 1958 edition (www.loretopubs.org, (603) 239-6671, \$39.95). The advantage of the Marian Missal is relatively accurate typesetting, and incorporation of the Holy Week changes. The disadvantage is incomplete Latin, even in the editions that incorporate (some of the) Latin Propers.



The St. Joseph Missal (www.libers.com, (406) 452-5452), \$40.00) is a 1953 edition, English only. It is the direct predecessor of today's Novus Ordo St. Joseph Missal. It has a familiar appearance and sentimental value to many because of its popularity then and now.

The Roman Missal, a.k.a. the Baronius Press Missal (www.baroniuspress.com or www.fssp.com, (570) 842-4000, \$60.00) is a new missal, published in England in 2004, in cooperation with the Fraternity of St. Peter. It is based on the Marian Missal, but unlike the Marian, has full Latin and English propers. It is up to date on 1962 missal changes. It has the distinction of being the only newly published Tridentine hand missal with an imprimatur.

The Roman Catholic Daily Missal (www.angeluspress.org, (800) 966-7337, \$60.00) was also published in 2004 and resembles the Baronius Missal in many ways. It is also based on the Marian Missal and has all of the 1962 changes. Whatever one thinks of its publisher, the Society of St. Pius X, one cannot deny that they did a fine job assembling this missal. However, both it and the Baronius Missal carry over most of the (relatively few) typographical errors from the Marian Missal.

If you are interested in seeing one of these missals, come to the sacristy after Mass. They all have their advantages and disadvantages. Because none of them, not even the new ones, has done a good job of proofreading the Propers, it is not possible to recommend one on the basis of accuracy. If you can tolerate small print, the Baronius Missal seems the most complete. If you prefer larger print, one of the large-print editions of the Marian Missal will be more to your liking. Preferably get one published in 1956 or later.

We will continue to supply Sunday Latin/English Mass Propers handouts to use with the paperback Red Latin Missals. Whatever you choose you use as your worship aid, reading the Propers as the priest chants or reads them will help you appreciate and pray along with the beautiful prayers contained in the Traditional Mass.